

Message from the Chief

Chief's Memo – April 10, 2006

CDF work plans, priorities, and challenging times

Last Friday, I received and began reviewing most of the draft two-year work plans from each of the programs within CDF. Over the next few weeks executive staff will have the opportunity for review and input before they are released for employee and stakeholder input.



Over the past 100 days I have identified a number of key issues facing CDF as I met with the various employees and stakeholders, including, but not limited to:

- Base budget deficiencies
- Leadership / experience drain / inversion
- Aging infrastructure / equipment
- Definition / consensus of the CDF Mission
- Department wide integration / coordination / organization
- Succession Planning / training capacity
- Standards (hiring, promotional, ICT)
- Regulatory certainty for Forest Practices
- Unfunded liabilities
- Technology deficiencies
- EEO issues

The work plans address all of the key issues that I have identified over the past 100 days. Many of those challenges are being actively worked on and supervisors, managers and the executive team are making decisions to resolve them. Despite significant budget pressures, CDF executive staff has addressed the following significant issues in the past few weeks with Unit and Region input:


- Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base to remain
- Not to cancel classes necessary for safety or succession planning
- Repair all emergency response apparatus necessary for the fire season
- Conduct pilot training on schedule
- Work with Agency and Finance to resolve current fiscal year deficiency is in the late stages
- Work with Agency, Finance, and Governor's Office to address leadership drain and inversion problem is continuing
- Work with Agency, the Board of Forestry, and stakeholders on the recommendations for JDSF EIR has been progressing

- Work with local government and stakeholders on the amendments to and adoption of the 2006 IBC and IFC is near completion
- Submission of a plan to prioritize the use of the \$215 million in the Governor's Strategic Plan Initiative for CDF Infrastructure
- A Budget Change Proposal (BCP) has been developed to address succession plan issues
- Decisions have been made on the selection of three new Unit Chiefs with two more closely following

In addition, fire protection executive staff is currently working on the framework for a contingency plan to be discussed at the ICT meeting in May in preparation for the fire season. Executive staff will also be meeting with the USFS executive staff to insure coordination and communication in preparation for the upcoming fire season.

So, the pace is fast and the support is shrinking through retirements. Workloads are being re-distributed. For example, the Regions are now managing North Ops and South Ops. Much planning, organizing, and decision-making is still underway. This is the CDF way! I am confident that our character will continue to grow and leaders will continue to emerge as we face more challenging times ahead.

Regards,



Ruben Grijalva, Chief
Acting Director

Aviation Management

AMU has been monitoring the test and evaluation of the 10 Supertanker, a converted DC-10 which is promising response to a 500 mile radius. During flights at Victorville last week, the 10 Supertanker demonstrated water drop rates of 1,500 gallons per second using its 12,000 gallon external tank system. As a result of this and other tests, 10 Tanker Air Carrier has been issued the necessary FAR 137 operating certificates, and the Supertanker is ready to operate under a Standard Certificate of Airworthiness. The Interagency Tanker Board has yet to card the aircraft however for operations this fire season.

Management Services/Budgets

The next Assembly budget hearing for CDF was moved from April 5 to April 19. Regarding CDF's deficiency request, Management Services and Budgets continues to work closely with the Department of Finance providing additional information and encouraging resolution of the CDF funding request soon. The year-end process for closing the accounting books for 2005-06 is coming soon so

folks in the field and in programs should start thinking about preparing for that meeting and begin pulling together necessary fiscal information between now and June.

Office of State Fire Marshal

Statewide Training Education Advisory Committee met in San Diego on March 24. Next meeting is April 21 in San Jose. State Training Chief Mike Richwine continues to meet with stakeholders for input on improving the State Fire Training delivery systems. State Fire Marshal is supporting the National Association of State Fire Marshals and SFM Pipeline Safety Division to facilitate four Train-the-Trainer courses for pipeline emergency instruction for first responders. The course information will be distributed at the Statewide Pipeline Safety Meeting in Monterey on April 18.

Tech Services

Raymond station Bid in budget. This was the second time this project was bid construction should start in approximately 45-60 days. Manton station is substantially complete and CDF has taken beneficial occupancy. This one engine station project started in 1998 and cost approximately \$2.4 million. The Lease Revenue Bond sale for this project is currently in process.



Manton Station

The next projects that will be coming on line in the next 3-4 months should be the Sonora and Sand Creek stations. Elk Camp station is out to Bid. Rancheria station bid was in budget last week. This is the second time this project was bid. There were two bidders and only the low bidder is within budget. The May Revise will be for executive review this week and it is due to DOF by April 12. As requested at the Senate, Sub 2, hearing Tech Services is compiling historical project information to help justify the positions requested. After 43 years of State Service, 38 with CDF, Paul Dekoekkoek will be retiring at the end of April.